Appl. No.: To be assigned

Preliminary Amendment dated November 17, 2003

Continuation of Appl. Serial No. 09/996,970

<u>REMARKS</u>

Applicant has amended the specification to reflect the continuation status of this

application. Applicant has canceled claims 1-20 without prejudice and added new claims 21-28

variously claiming the allowable subject matter disclosed in the application. Applicant has also

submitted formal drawings to replace the original informal drawings.

Early action on the merits of Applicant's claims is earnestly requested. If the Examiner

believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the

Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtenay B. Allen

Reg. No. 43,469

Loeffler Jonas & Tuggey, LLP

755 E. Mulberry, Suite 200

San Antonio, Texas 78212

(210) 244-8848

(210) 354-4034 (Fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

Date: 17 November 2003